

Cactus Chapter Volvo Club of America NEWSLETTER

Your Local Chapter Since 1996
Spring 2012

Welcome 2012!

The Cactus Chapter is excited to start the new year with events and gatherings to excite any Volvo fanatic. Our newly elected board is looking forward to participating in this years British European Auto Tour, attending more car shows, organizing an Arizona wine tour (our lawyers wouldn't let us call it a "wine and drive"), organizing our next Volvo Day, hanging out in Southern and Northern Arizona and having other diversions in between. We call to the general membership to participate and make this your club and to make 2012 the best Cactus Chapter year yet!

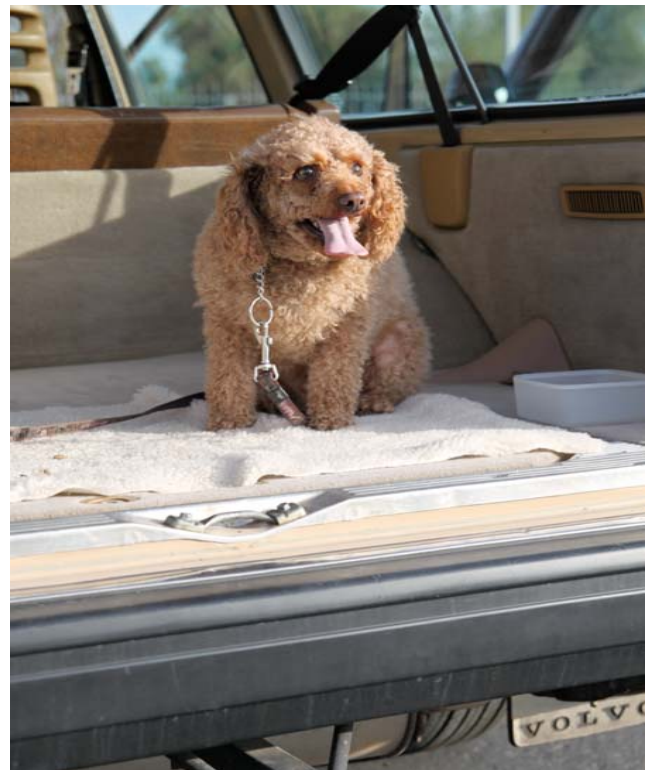
Arizona Volvo Day

Story and photos by Ivan



Twenty-eleven's annual Cactus Chapter Arizona Volvo Day was held for the first time at Sanderson Volvo of Phoenix on Saturday, 19 November 2011. Members and onlookers celebrated the day with a car show, raffles, trading brick stories and a tour through the Sanderson facility by our gracious hosts. This year's event included members from the Cactus Chapter, Arizona Chapter Volvo Sports America as well as a couple members of the Lincoln Club.

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Cactus Chapter Holiday Dinner



On December 10, 2011, Cactus Chapter members spent a cool Arizona December night among friends at the Annual Holiday Dinner. This year's venue was decidedly more intimate and private: the Salt River Project "PERA" Club.

The night started with the sound of libations pouring from a cash bar and the boisterous chatter of mingling guests. Projecting on a wall in the main room was a slideshow of pictures from memorable CCVCOA events, and on the floor was a remote control XC90, piloted by Sam Westwood, zooming about.

Next, dinner was had, buffet style. The main course was barbeque from Honey Bears with sides, oh so many wonderful sides, from fellow members. These included salad with the most flavorful homemade dressing, cornbread, vegetables and potatoes.

After dinner, Carol Pace led a trivia game that fired up the synapses and stirred up challenges. Then, there was the gift exchange: a jovially cutthroat and exciting spectacle as members picked, vied and stole for movie tickets, Christmas ornaments, heated party trays and 1.5 liter bottles of Captain Morgan spiced rum. Surely, by night's end someone had a little Captain in 'em!

Members also brought donations for Sunshine Acres Children's Home, which were delivered to the non-profit the following weekend. Thanks to all who helped make the 2011 Cactus Chapter Holiday Party possible. We all had a great time and a memorable evening.



Volvo's Alphabet Soup

People use acronyms for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, it's to make speech more efficient in certain situations: "this shock absorber nut is rounded off... it's FUBAR." Other times it's to make a communication less obvious to those outside the lingo, or on the other side of the generational divide: "can't talk right now, POTSL (my Parents are Other The Shoulder Listening)."

Much like the military, or your teenage daughter, Volvo makes ample use of acronyms to describe the various safety systems in its cars, and the Swedes have been doing it for years. Below is a sampling:

SRS. Supplemental Restraint System. This describes the airbags, and this acronym is now commonly used among carmakers.

SIPS. Side Impact Protection System. This system describes the suite of structural elements that help channel and dissipate impact energy through the doors, pillars and floor pan of the chassis. Window stickers and stampings onto the rocker panels bearing this acronym first appeared on late model 700s, 850s and 900s.

ROPS. Roll Over Protection System. This system incorporates information from onboard gyroscopes to determine impending rollover of the vehicle, at which point the seat belt tensioners are activated, the side curtain air bags are deployed for an extended time and the sunroof is closed. On the original C70 convertibles, this system used structural bars that popped up behind the rear passengers.

WHIPS. Whiplash Protection System. A special seat structure and head restraint work to help control impact forces to the spine and neck during a rear collision. First introduced on the first generation S80.

BLIS. Blind Spot Information System. First introduced in 2005, this system utilizes cameras mounted under the side mirrors and illuminates a signal whenever an object is possibly within a driver's blind spot.

2012 Event Calendar

This calendar outlines various automotive events of interest. Those sponsored by the Cactus Chapter VCOA are shown in red. Members should expect e-mail reminders prior to each Cactus Chapter sponsored event with more details. The Cactus Chapter typically holds a meeting every third Sunday of the month.

JANUARY
<p>28: Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts 18th Annual Collector Car Show. Tubac Golf Resort, 10 AM to 3 PM. Visit www.carnuts.org for more information.</p>
FEBRUARY
<p>4: Mesa High Octane Main Street Meet. The parking lot behind US Bank at Main Street and MacDonald in downtown Mesa, 8 AM to 11 AM. The City of Mesa is holding a car show and swap meet in its downtown. To show off your car and/or wares, contact Cori Garcia of the Downtown Mesa Association 480-890-2613.</p> <p>11: VSA Globe Cruise. Meet at the Scottsdale Pavilions Five & Diner, 7 AM. Contact Jay Norton 480-897-0379 for more information.</p> <p>17-19: VSA-CCVCOA Temecula Wine Tour. Volvo Sports America and Cactus Chapter members join to enjoy life's finest in California wine country. The caravan starts Friday morning from the West Valley. Contact Jay Norton 480-897-0379 for more information.</p> <p>26: CCVCOA Lunch Meeting. Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 12 PM to 2 PM.</p>
MARCH
<p>9-11: Goodguys 3rd Annual Spring Nationals. Westworld of Scottsdale, 8 AM. Cactus Chapter members plan to show their pre-1972 cars that Sunday morning. Registration required. Contact Jay Norton 480-897-0379 for more information.</p> <p>18: CCVCOA Lunch Meeting. Beaver Choice Scandinavian restaurant in Tempe, 12 PM to 2 PM.</p>
APRIL
<p>15: Copperstate 1000 Field of Dreams. Tempe Diablo Stadium, 8 AM to 12 PM. Cactus Chapter members plan to meet that morning in the west parking lot to view the cars taking part in the Copperstate 1000. Contact Jay Norton 480-897-0379 for more information.</p> <p>21: VSA Wildflower Cruise. Contact Jay Norton 480-897-0379 for more information.</p> <p>21-22: British European Auto Tour. Several Cactus Chapter members have registered to participate on this very popular event. Register now to get your position, and visit www.beataz.com for the latest information.</p>

MAY
<p>4-5: Elite Car Cruising Organization Cannonball Phoenix Spree. Starts at the Fort McDowell Radisson. Registration required, which ends April 20. This is a road rally, scavenger hunt, and pure madness. Visit www.tourecco.com/cannonball/phenix-spree/2012spree/ for more information.</p> <p>20: CCVCOA Meeting. Location West Valley (TBD), 12 PM to 2 PM.</p>
JUNE
<p>1-3: VCOA National Meet. St. Louis, Missouri. See the latest Rolling magazine or visit www.vcoa.org for more information.</p> <p>9: VSA Go Kart Championship.</p> <p>17: CCVCOA Meeting. Location East Valley (TBD), 12 PM to 2 PM.</p>
JULY
<p>15: CCVCOA Meeting. Location West Valley (TBD), 12 PM to 2 PM.</p>
AUGUST
<p>18-19: CCVCOA Northern Arizona Getaway. Willow Lake (Heritage Park) in Prescott, 11:30-3 PM. Join Cactus Chapter members at our usual spot under the park's Hilltop Ramada for Saturday lunch. Members also plan on going to the nearby car show. Some members are choosing to say overnight for Sunday activities.</p>
SEPTEMBER
<p>16: CCVCOA Lunch & Planning Meeting. Location East Valley (TBD), 12 PM to 2 PM.</p>
OCTOBER
<p>13 or 20: CCVCOA Southern Arizona Event. TBD.</p>
NOVEMBER
<p>10: CCVCOA Annual All Volvo Day. Volvo of Tempe, 9:30 AM to 2 PM. This is the Cactus Chapter's big annual event.</p>
DECEMBER
<p>8: CCVCOA Holiday Dinner. SRP Pera Club in Tempe, 5 PM to 9 PM.</p>

Visit www.cactuschapter.org for the latest details!

Arizona Volvo Day

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The morning started with the smell of coffee in the air and Cactus Chapter members ready to volunteer their labor. Before long, the club tent was up and the raffle prizes were display. By 10 o'clock, an ample showing of Volvos from a 1957 444 to a modern S60 were on display, along with a brand new XC60 and S60, courtesy of the folks at Sanderson Volvo.

The Sanderson staff also treated members to a tour of the dealership that included a look through their clean garage, training room, sales offices and showroom. Management also mentioned that a stand-alone Volvo showroom was in the works, to be located just east of the current facility. Members were also given discount coupons for the parts department, which enticed several recipients to take immediate advantage.

As afternoon commenced, visitors continued to drive in to see the cars and meet the owners. The most rewarding experiences happen when visitors seek advice or information about their Volvos, such as when a new owner takes possession and wants to give his or her piece of Sweden the best care possible.

After the last raffle was announced, the car show votes were counted. The winners included a beautifully restored PV444, a clean and *sharp* 1800, and two examples of turbocharged sport sedans that helped put Volvo on the forefront of performance during the 1990s.

The Club wishes to thank Sanderson Volvo for allowing us to have this year's All Volvo Day at their facility as well thank all who helped plan, setup and close the event. Can't wait for next year!



2011 Arizona Volvo Day Car Show Winners

1st Place: Dave Moore, 1957 PV444

2nd Place: Ken Purcell, 1970 1800E

3rd Place: Dino Aerostatico, 1996 850R

People's Choice: Daniel Duarte, 1995 850T-5R



Looking back

Here are some of the other things Cactus Chapter members were doing in 2011...

Annual San Diego VSA Temecula Wine Tour



On February 12, 2011 four Volvo's with eight Arizona folks crossed the Arizona desert into California rural highlands for a weekend of great weather, fine friends, fine wine and Volvo's galore. Our friends Tom and Barbara Dougherty and the fine folks from the San Diego VSA invited the Cactus Chapter VCOA to participate in the Annual Temecula Wine Tour.

CCVCOA Visits Volvo of Tempe



On Saturday, June 25, Volvo of Tempe invited the Cactus Chapter VCOA to their brand new dealership in the Tempe Autoplex at I-10 and Elliot Road. The Club took this opportunity to formally introduce itself as patrons and partners in promoting the Volvo lifestyle.

Operation Heat Shield



Dubbed "Operation Heat Shield," this year's Cactus Chapter summer getaway to Willow Lake in Prescott on August 6th was a hit with brats, dogs, salads, drinks and companions. About thirty members and their families gathered at the park's "Hilltop Ramada" which provided a scenic backdrop to the picnic event.

The benefits of membership

If you are reading this newsletter, you are likely a member in good standing with the national Volvo Club of America (VCOA), the local Cactus Chapter, or both. You may also be asking, "why am I paying for these memberships?"

For membership into the national club, the simple answer is liability. Paid members of the VCOA benefit from insurance coverage when attending a VCOA-sanctioned event, such as our Arizona Volvo Day. In addition, national membership offers a subscription to Rolling magazine and discounts.

As a member of the local club, your annual dues go into things like infrastructure (purchase of new or repairs to tables, chairs, tents, etc), prizes not covered by raffle revenue, as well as all our annual holiday dinner expenses. Despite the nasty rumors, Cactus Chapter board members are not offered Swedish summer homes.

So, keep your memberships current to get the full benefit of being in the Club. Visit www.vcoa.org and www.cactuschapter.org for the latest membership information.

A new year, a new website look

Our club website continues to be a valuable resource for members and soon-to-be members browsing the Internet for Volvo information. For the New Year we updated the event calendar as well as the look. Of course, it's still at the same address: www.cactuschapter.org.

Website maintenance duties have been officially transferred to the Cactus Chapter Secretary, so feel free to drop Ivan a note (visit the website for contact information) regarding website issues. Although our website budget is as low as it gets, we can still get a lot of mileage with our simple and sleek site. Thanks for visiting!

About us...

The purpose and mission of the Cactus Chapter of the Volvo Club of America is, "to encourage the ownership, operation, maintenance, and recognition of all Volvo models; to act as a source of information; to promote activities and events that will encourage proper maintenance and operation; to provide for members a camaraderie and a focal point for common interest; to arrange for member discounts on a variety of products, parts, and services; to promote safe driving and the use of safety devices."

This Chapter is intended to be the focal point of activity within the Club. Its purpose is to provide an organization at the local level for the planning and carrying out of activities supporting the objectives of the Club and which can respond to the needs of the Chapter members. Our Chapter will have meetings for the purpose of planning activities and to conduct other such business as may be necessary to the operation of the Chapter. Activities may include, but are not limited to, gathering to promote the restoration, care, safe use, and enjoyment of Volvo automobiles as well as gathering camaraderie and to participate in other such events as may be of interest to the members.

The Cactus Chapter Volvo Club of America Newsletter is published quarterly, or at the whim of the management, whichever comes first. Meetings are held regularly in addition to the event schedule. Please visit our website at www.cactuschapter.org.

Officers

President: Jon Yares

Vice President & VSA Liaison: Jay Norton

Treasurer: Brian Woodbury

Secretary & Newsletter: Ivan Insua

Northern Arizona Coordinator: Rory Madden

Southern Arizona Coordinator: Walter Nash

Director Emeritus: Mel Filreis

Directors: Randy Pace, Steve Westwood

More from Arizona Volvo Day 2011

Photos by Ivan



Looking like "Missile McFinn."



Some Swedish fields enjoy the afternoon.



Sanderson staff showing off the service garage.



Ken Purcell's under hood shine.

